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Sen. Cropsey praises passage of citizen-initiated Legal Birth Definition Act

LANSING –Sen. Alan Cropsey, R-DeWitt, called the Senate’s approval today of the citizen-initiated Legal Birth Definition Act a victory for Michigan’s most vulnerable citizens.

“I commend the efforts of those who put this matter again before the Legislature after the governor’s regrettable veto,” Cropsey said. “I’m proud to be a part of the effort to stop this ghastly practice.”

The People’s Override was launched in January to put the measure back before the Legislature in a way that would prevent the governor from vetoing it. In just 90 days, more than 460,000 Michigan citizens signed petitions supporting the Legal Birth Definition Act.

“Our vote today in the Senate shows the dedication and broad-based support of Michigan voters who support life,” Cropsey said.

The Legal Birth Definition Act defines the moment at which a person is considered “born” and therefore eligible for the full protection of the law. Through this definition, partial birth abortions would be banned except in rare cases where the physical health or life of the mother is threatened by delivery.

Unfortunately, Senate Democrats were able to stop the act from taking effect immediately. That means it will be enacted 90 days after the last legislative session day of the year.

In *Roe v. Wade* and the legal decisions that followed it, the U.S. Supreme Court established that a fully born child is afforded full constitutional rights and that a child within his or her mother is not a legally protected person. However, no court has ever sought to define the term “unborn” or bar states from defining “born.” The initiative clarifies this ambiguity, establishing a clear line between when pregnancy ends and birth begins.

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Editor’s note: Audio comments from Sen. Cropsey are available on the Senate Majority Multi-media link at senate.michigan.gov/gop/audiowire/index.htm.